

Appl. No.:10/756,588  
Amdt. Dated: 12/27/06  
Off. Act. Dated:11/28/06

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-63 (canceled)

64. (original): A method for treatment of the prostate gland, comprising:  
inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate gland;  
placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the rectum and the prostate gland;  
inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate gland and the rectal wall;  
initiating and conducting treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and  
deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

65. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the rectal wall and the surface of prostate gland during the treatment of the prostate gland.

66. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the surface of the inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

67. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:

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monitoring the temperature of a fluid within said inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

68. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating or circulating a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.

69. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.

70. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating or circulating a thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.

71. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.

72. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating or circulating a fluid through said catheter assembly that is below the normal body temperature during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.

73. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall and form an acoustic barrier to protect rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and

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initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

74. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating said inflatable member with an acoustically transmissible material to  
allow for diagnostic imaging;

replacing said acoustically transmissible material with an acoustically blocking  
material to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall; and form an acoustic  
barrier to protect the rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and

initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

75. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein pressure within said  
catheter assembly remains constant during the replacement of said gas with said liquid.

76. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said  
liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

77. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said  
liquid replacing said gas is higher than the temperature of the body.

78. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, wherein the insertion and  
placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group  
consisting essentially of CT, fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and  
transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging and X-ray.

79. (original): A method for treatment of a diseased tissue site, comprising:  
inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of a diseased tissue site;  
placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly at an edge between the  
target tissue site and a sensitive healthy tissue or non-targeted site;

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inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the target tissue and non-targeted tissue;

initiating and conducting treatment of the target tissue once the inflatable member is inflated; and

deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

80. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:  
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the sensitive tissues during the treatment of the target tissue.

81. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:  
monitoring the temperature of the inflatable member during the treatment of the target tissue.

82. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:  
cycling a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue by thermotherapy.

83. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising:  
regulating at least one of the temperature, pressure and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue.

84. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:  
inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the target tissue from the sensitive tissue and form an acoustic barrier;

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initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue; and  
replacing said gas within said inflatable member and said catheter assembly with  
a liquid after the conclusion of the ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue.

85. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:  
regulating the pressure of said gas within said catheter assembly and said  
inflatable member.

86. (original): A method as recited in claim 84, wherein the temperature of said  
liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

87. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, wherein the insertion and  
placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group  
consisting essentially of CT fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and  
transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging.

88. (original): A method for radiation treatment of the prostate gland,  
comprising:

inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate  
gland;

placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the  
rectum and the prostate gland;

inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate  
gland and the rectal wall ;

initiating and conducting radiation treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and  
deploying said inflatable member and said catheter assembly for the duration of  
the implantation.

89. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising:

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inflating said inflatable member with material that modifies radiation dose distribution.

90. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of: sensing the exposure of said catheter assembly to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

91. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of: sensing the exposure of tissues surrounding the prostate gland to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

92. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of: repositioning tissues that are in close proximity to the prostate gland prior to initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

Claims 93-98: (cancelled).